15. Education. We spent in 1102 Rs. 42 lakhs or 18 per cent of our total income on schools and colleges, including expenditure on buildings to house them. The amount that went to the departments under the Director of Public Instruction absorbed over Rs. 30½ lakhs of this. There were 488,431 young people in 3,583 recognised educational institutions. There was one school approximately to every 1,000 of the population. The Government begrudge no money to the schools, for nothing but good can come of universal literacy in the State and there can be no question but that a widely spread middle school education operates to the advantage of every branch of human activity in a civilised State. But the people of Travancore are not content with that. There is a code rule that pupils shall be neatly clad; and the cult of the shirt is an inexorable bar to manual labour. Every boy fixes his eye on a college degree or a school final certificate; and fond parents are ready to sacrifice all, thus to equip their sons for Government employment. And so we have an army of graduates and certificated youths besieging the Government for appointments. Hence the cry of unemployment. To investigate the causes and remedies therefor the Government appointed a committee last year. It made searching enquiries and its report is now being written. From this juxtaposition you will no doubt infer and rightly infer that the problems of education and unemployment are interlocked. We were to have had a committee or other agency to go into the question of the system of education now obtaining in Travancore. The Government have been advised that the appointment of that agency should wait upon the report of the Unemployment Committee. Until now no problem of unemployment perturbed our girls and young women. There are more than 5,000 girls in 34 English Girls' Schools and there are over 4,000 girls attending English Boys' Schools. There are nearly 200 young women distributed over the several colleges. The other day a deputation of young ladies waited upon me and unfolded their tale of woe. It would appear that there are no less than 30 or 40 qualified but unemployed women graduates in the State. The seriousness of the position is apparent from the fact that some have even migrated to fill appointments outside the State. It is true that women are freely employed in the service of the State as teachers and school inspectresses; as nurses, doctors and vaccinators. But it would seem that the time is come when other avenues till now monopolised by men should be thrown open to women. Women in Travancore hold a position of their own and so the Government have decided to throw open certain other appointments to them and as soon as possible after this session closes I hope to issue a G. O. on the subject. The committee appointed to examine the question of the pay of vernacular school teachers has presented its report which is now being examined by the departments concerned. The Government will arrive at a decision upon the matter in time for the next budget.

16. Last year it was my privilege to inform you of a princely endowment by Rao Sahib T. Padmanabha Rao for midday meals for poor schoolboys. Today I must tell you of a bequest of Rs. 20,000 to the Government of Travancore by the late Sir P. Rajagopalachariar for the education of Nair girls. That great Dewan loved Travancore in death as he did in life. *Requiescat In Pace!*

17. Public Health. Travancore is equipped with 31 Government hospitals and 42 dispensaries. There are also 18 medical institutions receiving grants-in-aid from the Government. These are all allopathic institutions. There is a Government Ayurvedic hospital at Trivandrum and there are 113 State-aided Vaidyasalas working under Government control. The cry for more hospitals and dispensaries still comes up from the people. Twelve new dispensaries have been sanctioned during last year and this year. As you know, all Government institutions are free, including service and medicines. For some little time past it has been felt that the medical and sanitary services of the State call for reorganisation. Their activities also need to be directed and co-ordinated with specific objectives and purposes. Accordingly, when it was learnt that a Director of the Rockfeller Foundation was on a visit to India the Government invited him to Travancore. Dr. Heiser was good enough to spend a few days in the State and with him came Dr. Kendrick, also an officer of the Foundation, who has been working in Madras. They went about, examined a certain number of institutions, and studied local conditions as far as

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possible. They made arrangements for a preliminary survey of hookworm in Travancore. Specimens from 13 widely separated places in Travancore were collected over a number of days and sent to Dr. Kendrick. Two days ago I studied the results of their systematic examination. You will be surprised to hear that the percentage of positive infection varies from 86 to 100 showing an average of 96 per cent. Dr. Kendrick is of opinion that Travancore shows the heaviest hookworm infection hitherto found in South India. There are other insidious diseases too. Let us hope that the Foundation will come to our aid in the directions where our medical and sanitary services feel the need for guidance and help. A formal request has been despatched to the President of the Foundation in New York. If they do come to our aid with their vast and varied experience, their resources and their organisation, I am sure the people of the State will secure a lasting benefit.

18. Epidemics. That brings me to the finger of death which has been pointed menacingly towards the State during the last few months. Bubonic plague settled upon many British Indian towns and villages on our north-eastern frontier. There is a free intermingling of people and a considerable trade between the afflicted areas and the large and important planting district of the High Range of Travancore. Precautionary measures were taken to ward off the entry of the disease into this region. But the stealthy ways of the plague are hard to counter. The disease broke out at Munnar. It had to be eradicated and its re-entry prevented at all cost. Drastic measures were taken. A chain of block-houses, preventive and observation stations, was set up at all points of ingress and egress. The town of Munnar was completely evacuated. Shops and bazaars and public offices were closed. Estate cooly lines were dismantled or unroofed and coolies on affected estates were segregated in special camps. There are over 25,000 coolies on the estates. The sources of food supply were diverted to non-infected areas and the transport and handling of grain and provisions were strictly controlled. Inoculation was everywhere carried on vigorously and a ruthless campaign was kept up against rats. Destruction was carried into their burrows by means of appliances specially manufactured for the purpose. The Commissioner of Police was deputed to afford the Commissioner of Devicolam special assistance. A senior medical officer to control and co-ordinate the work of 10 other medical officers was detailed for duty in connection with plague. In all these measures the controlling officers and the medical officers of the Kanan Devan Hills Produce Company co-operated with singleness of purpose. I am happy to say that there were in all only 11 attacks and 6 deaths. I take this opportunity of giving public expression of the thanks of the Government to Mr. Pinches, General Manager of the Kanan Devan Hills Produce Company and to Dr. Finlayson, his chief medical officer, for their ready co-operation and invaluable help. Mr. Cameron met the situation with courage and tact and untiring effort. At the most serious stage of the crisis he was ably seconded by Mr. Pitt and by Mr. Gopala Pillai, the special Medical and Sanitary Officer. Mr. Herbert Parratt was deputed to guard the Peermade front and has proved himself a most effective warden of the marches. When the anxiety of the plague menace had begun to pass, cholera broke out in South Travancore. The rapidity with which the disease spread over a scattered area resulted in an unfortunate toll of 380 lives. Here too special measures were taken. Three squads of selected medical officers provided with motor transport were despatched to the affected areas. Medical aid was taken to the doors of the sufferers. In the case of the needy, nourishment, new clothes and mats were provided gratis. The immunity secured by inoculation had an immediate effect upon the people who flocked for inoculation. Chlorination of water-supplies and disinfection were vigorously carried out. All this was achieved under the immediate eye and enthusiastic generalship of Dr. Raman Tampi, the Inspecting Medical Officer. Those of you who come from South Travancore know that the epidemic was stayed within a very short time.

19. Distinguished Visitors. In November last the State had the privilege of receiving, as the guests of Her Highness, His Excellency Field Marshal Sir William Birdwood, Commander-in-Chief in India, and Lady Birdwood. Their courtesy and kindliness won the hearts of the people who everywhere thronged to give them an enthusiastic welcome.

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